

# B inside Boulder

The City of Boulder's Community Newsletter

## ■ Reflections of 2008:

From Boulder Mayor Shaun McGrath and Deputy Mayor Crystal Gray and members of the City Council

With our sincere gratitude, thank you, Boulder voters, for approving two revenue initiatives during this year's election. This funding allows the city to continue to provide necessary services and programs that make our community vibrant.

As 2008 comes to an end and we enter 2009, we'd like to reflect upon some of the accomplishments the city has made this year of which we are particularly proud.

First, we've made remarkable progress with our **Climate Action Plan**. This year, 450 home energy audits were conducted. We installed solar-photovoltaic systems at three city buildings—the George Reynolds Branch Library, the Municipal Building, and the Park Central Building. Each system will provide approximately 15,000 kWh of electric

power for each building annually, saving the city approximately \$3,600 per year in electricity costs and reducing the city's greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 86,000 pounds or 39 tons. **Composting** has also been approved citywide and by implementing this program, we expect to significantly reduce our citywide GHG emissions.

The Parks and Recreation Department completed the **Holiday Pocket Park** playground construction, which complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and includes custom-built climbing boulders, recycling, bicycle parking, and low-water landscaping. In addition, we approved the **Valmont City Park** plan with support for a bike park, disc golf course and play areas.

The Open Space and Mountain Parks Department (OSMP),  
(See council message, page 4)

## ■ Looking forward: Revenue initiatives support city's financial future

By City Manager Jane S. Brautigam

Thanks to you, the two revenue initiatives presented in this year's election—Sales and Use Tax Extension and Retention of Property Funds—were approved. On behalf of the city of Boulder, I want to express my sincere appreciation for your support of these initiatives. This is great news for our community in the following ways:

- **#202 - Sales and Use Tax Extension:** Without creating any new taxes for our community, this initiative continues a current tax scheduled to end in 2011. The extension of this tax will ensure continued funding for general city services like police, fire library, parks and human services.

- **#201 - Retention of Property Funds:** By eliminating TABOR restrictions on property taxes, this initiative will create new revenues for critical deficiencies and projected long-term funding gaps our community faces. The priorities for the

use of these important funds will be carefully considered by City Council. Examples for potential uses of these property tax revenues include new fire apparatus and facilities maintenance. The funds will not be available to fund new services.

I am pleased that our community supported these initiatives. By doing so, you have invested in the future of our city, providing the means to advance our community's needs and values. Boulder's future is brighter because of your support and I thank you for the confidence you have expressed in our great city.



Photo Credit: City of Dublin



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## Feedback? Ideas?

Contact us at:  
[insideboulder@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:insideboulder@bouldercolorado.gov)  
or call 303-441-4205.

**Celebrating 150 years of Boulder**  
Visit [www.boulder150.com](http://www.boulder150.com) for events



**City Attorney's Office** • 303-441-3020  
City Attorney: Jerry Gordon

**City Manager's Office** • 303-441-3090  
City Manager: Jane S. Brautigam

**Channel 8** • 303-441-4395  
Director: Don Chapman

**Communication** • 303-441-3155  
Interim Manager: Jodie Carroll

**Downtown and University Hill Management**  
Division & Parking Services • 303-413-7300  
Director: Molly Winter

**Business Assistance/Economic Vitality**  
303-441-3287  
Business Liaison: Liz Hanson

**Emergency Management (city and county)**  
303-441-3390  
Director: Jerry Tate

**Environmental Affairs** • 303-441-4900  
Manager: Jonathan Koehn

**Finance** • 303-441-3040  
Director: Bob Eichem

**Fire** • 303-441-3350  
Fire Chief: Larry Donner

**Housing and Human Services** • 303-441-3157  
Acting Director: Karen Rahn

**Human Resources** • 303-441-3070  
Director: Eileen Gomez

**Information Technology** • 303-441-3080  
Director: Don Ingle

**Library & The Arts** • 303-441-3100  
Director: Tony Tallent

**Municipal Court** • 303-441-1843  
Municipal Judge: Linda Cooke

**Open Space & Mountain Parks** • 303-441-3440  
Director: Michael Patton

**Parks and Recreation** • 303-413-7200  
Interim Director: Tracy Winfree

**Planning** • 303-441-1880  
Executive Director: Ruth McHeyser

**Police** • 303-441-3310  
Police Chief: Mark Beckner

**Public Works (transportation, utilities, streets)**  
303-441-3200  
Executive Director: Maureen Rait

**Senior Services** • 303-441-4150  
Director: John Riggle



## INSIDE BOULDER

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## Important Numbers:

**General Info:** 303-441-3388

**Emergency:** 911

**Police Dispatch for Non-Emergency:** 303-441-3333

**Office of Human Rights:** 303-441-3141

**Community Mediation Program:** 303-441-4364

**Animal Control:** 303-442-4030

## On the Web:

For complete listings of city departments, projects and programs, go to [www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov) and click on "City A-Z."

## Boards and Commissions

The city's 20 boards and commissions study information and make recommendations to City Council on issues within the board's area of expertise. Recruitment for annual board appointments begins in January. For more information: [www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov), click on "Boards and Commissions."

- Arts Commission
- Beverages Licensing Authority
- Board of Zoning Adjustment
- Boulder Community Media Board of Directors
- Boulder Urban Renewal Authority
- Chautauqua Association
- Downtown Design Advisory Board
- Downtown Management Commission
- Environmental Advisory Board
- Housing Authority
- Human Relations Commission
- Landmarks Board
- Library Commission
- Open Space Board of Trustees
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- Planning Board
- Transportation Advisory Board
- University Hill Commercial Area Management Commission
- Water Resources Advisory Board
- Youth Opportunities Advisory Board

## City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 1777 Broadway, in Council Chambers (second floor).

Meetings are aired live on Channel 8 and re-broadcast Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at 11 a.m. Tapes are also available for checkout at the Main Boulder Public Library, 1000 Canyon Blvd. In addition, meetings are available online at [www.bouldercolorado.gov/channel8](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/channel8).

Study sessions are open to the public and are generally held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, please call 303-441-3002 or visit [www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov) and click on "calendar."

## Boulder City Council

**CONTACTING CITY COUNCIL** Mail letters to: Office of the City Council, P.O. Box 791, Boulder, CO 80306-0791

Fax letters to: 303-441-4478 • Council office phone: 303-441-3002 • E-mail all council members at once: [council@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:council@bouldercolorado.gov)



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## ■ 2009 Boards and Commissions Recruitment

The city of Boulder will begin its boards and commissions annual recruitment on Wednesday, Jan. 7. Boulder has 20 boards and commissions, each with specific responsibilities as detailed in the Boulder City Charter and/or the Boulder Revised Code.

These boards and commissions are established for the purpose of acquiring and studying information in specific areas and to make recommendations to the Boulder City Council on issues within the board's area of expertise. Some boards are quasi-judicial and have decision-making powers within their areas of expertise. Decisions made by quasi-judicial boards are subject to appeal by the Boulder City Council.

### RECRUITMENT CALENDAR:

**Wednesday, Jan. 7:** recruitment kick-off

**Friday, Feb. 20:** application deadline

**Monday, March 2:** applicant interviews

**Monday, March 9:** applicant interviews

**Tuesday, March 10:** applicant interviews

**Tuesday, March 17:** formal appointments by City Council

Visit [www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov) and select "Boards and Commissions" to find a complete listing of vacancies, specific board position requirements, and application information. Residents also may contact Sicily LeGault, boards and commissions coordinator, at 303-441-3019.

## ■ SmartGridCity™: A smarter future

The city of Boulder will soon be powered by a revolutionary system of digital technologies designed to transform energy management, improve reliability and performance, and modernize an aging power grid. The project, SmartGridCity™, is Xcel Energy's initiative to integrate cleaner, more renewable power sources in the energy mix and create a more interactive experience for Boulder electricity customers, allowing them to actively participate in decisions about their energy.

"We're on our way toward building the grid of the future and making SmartGridCity a reality," said Dick Kelly, Xcel Energy chairman, president and CEO. "This is a forward-thinking project that will transform the way we do business. In SmartGridCity, our customers will have more information, including the tools to communicate directly with us, and will choose when and how they use their energy based on price, generating resource or convenience."

To build this total energy solution for the future, Xcel Energy has partnered with technology companies and innovators and has gained the support of Gov. Bill Ritter and Sen. Ken Salazar. SmartGridCity will be the first community-wide project of its kind in the nation, setting a precedent for the delivery of clean energy technologies to Colorado--and eventually to other parts of the country.

As SmartGridCity launches, Boulder residents will have opportunities to get involved. By taking part in SmartGrid programs, customers stand to gain:

- more control over their energy usage with online tools for tracking and modifying electricity use to better fit their lifestyle, conservation goals and budget;
- options to automatically program energy use; and



Photo Credit: Xcel

- advanced "smart meters" that communicate with home appliances in near real-time for added energy savings.

The city anticipates that SmartGridCity will empower customers to become more active participants in their energy choices, use and spending. "Xcel Energy's SmartGridCity represents an exciting opportunity to help Boulder meet its Climate Action Plan goals," adds Mayor Shaun McGrath. "The system's state-of-the-art use of low-emission and renewable energy sources will contribute to our nation's effort to achieve energy independence and Colorado will lead our country into the new energy age."

To learn more about how you can participate, go to [www.xcelenergy.com/smartgridcity](http://www.xcelenergy.com/smartgridcity).

## ■ Boulder recognized as one of nation's most digital cities

The Center for Digital Government (CDG), in partnership with the National League of Cities (NLC), announced that the city of Boulder has placed eighth among cities in its population group in the 2008 Digital Cities Survey. This is the city's third year in a row to receive this recognition. This award recognizes cities that use technology at a high level of service to their residents. Evaluation factors include digital access to municipal information and services, technology management practices, and community technology infrastructure.

The CDG is a national research and advisory institute that provides government, education and industry leaders with decision support, research and educational services to help them effectively incorporate new technologies in the 21st century. The top 10 cities that received the award were honored at a reception in conjunction with the NLC's annual conference Nov. 11-15 in Orlando, Fla. "The city recognizes the vital role that the innovative use of information technology plays in fulfilling its mission

and goals," said city Information Technology (IT) Director Don Ingle. "It is a major factor in enabling city staff to meet ever-changing demands for service in the face of decreasing revenues. Technology innovation is an essential investment that, over time, can enhance the capacity of the organization and services delivered to the community."

The city's IT Department works in partnership with other city departments to plan and implement information technology strategies and value-added solutions. The department plays dual roles of supporting city departments in delivering services to city residents and other clients, and of looking beyond the needs of today to ensure that the technology infrastructure is in place to support future applications and tools when needed.

For more information on the center's 2008 Digital Cities Survey award, go to [www.govtech.com/dc/surveys/cities/89/2008](http://www.govtech.com/dc/surveys/cities/89/2008). To access the city's wide variety of online information, go to [www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov).

## ■ Tips for reducing winter energy bills

- Turn down thermostat at night or when not at home
- Close window blinds at night and open them during the day
- Set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit
- Turn off lights and unused electronics
- Keep fireplace dampers closed

Go to [www.beClimateSmart.com](http://www.beClimateSmart.com) for more information

■ Council message (continued from page 1)

by implementing its **Visitor Master Plan**, is improving the quality of the visitor experience and providing recreational activities and facilities that are compatible with resource protection. Trail improvements include a reroute of the **Doudy Draw Trail** to reduce riparian area impacts; two new trails at **Flatirons Vista**; two new trails west of Doudy Draw; and trail repairs/rebuilds in the **Marshall Mesa** area to address maintenance needs. About 11 miles of additional mountain bike trails will be added to the system by the end of 2008.

The new trail at **Goshawk Ridge** coincides with visitor off-trail permit requirements in the 1,000-acre Eldorado Mountain Habitat Conservation Area. The program purchased nearly 200 acres of new properties, adding to the lands protected for open space purposes. OSMP also completed the **Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan**, focusing on the conservation of the 24,000 acres of OSMP lands dominated by mixed grass and xeric tallgrass prairie. And, the **Junior Ranger** program completed maintenance of over 40 miles of trail on 40 different trails.

In Transportation, we completed the **28th street improvements project**, making the intersection at 28th and Pearl streets more bus and pedestrian friendly.

We celebrated the completion of **Skunk Creek** at 27th Way and Elmer's Two Mile/28th Street at Iris underpasses in October 2007 as part of the "Underworld Tour."

In June, we saw the largest "**Bike to Work Day**" community participation ever. In July, the City Council unanimously approved plans for **Valmont Bike Park**. The facility will host races for competitive cyclists and skills clinics for intermediates, and will become a cornerstone to promoting youth cycling. These accomplishments, coupled with the 76 underpasses and over 300 miles of bikeways, earned the city **platinum level Bicycle Friendly Community** status in September.

The **Colorado Bike Lanes and Sidewalks project** was completed this fall, adding on-street bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and landscaping on both sides of Colorado Avenue from 28th to 30th streets. Improvements to the west side of 28th Street and College Avenue underpass and an addition of a new transit stop on southbound 28th Street were added to increase safety.

Furthermore, the **Safe Routes to School** infrastructure projects at Flatirons and Foothill elementary schools were completed, which included enhanced bike and pedestrian access.

We completed improvements at the **75th Street Wastewater Treatment Plant**. The three-year, \$40 million project will improve plant efficiency and add improved process functionality, creating a high-quality discharge into Boulder Creek.

We completed the designation of four historical landmarks to preserve Boulder's charm. As part of the city's efforts to facilitate redevelopment of the Crossroad Commons Shopping Center, the **Union Pacific/Jaycees Depot building**, an 1890 Boulder landmark, was relocated from the northwest corner of Pearl and 30th streets to the Boulder Transit Village site on the northeast corner of Pearl and 30th streets.

The city has initiated the **Compatible Development in Single Family Neighborhoods** project to address the impact on existing single-family neighborhoods of new construction and additions that are incompatible in scale and bulk with neighborhood character. The city sent a questionnaire to more than 12,000 single-family homeowners to hear opinions and will hold community workshops in January for public feedback on a proposed strategy to address this issue.

We developed code changes to increase energy efficiency in commercial construction, residential remodels and building additions which contribute to **green building goals**.

Plans for the **Mapleton Early Childhood Center** are underway, with a proposal to rehabilitate and revitalize the vacant historic Mapleton School, located at 9th and Mapleton. The center will provide quality, affordable care, education, and support services for young children and families of all income levels. The project is a collaborative effort of the city, Boulder County, Boulder Valley School District, Early Childhood Council of Boulder County, and the Jared Polis Foundation.

In October, **Boulder Housing Partners** held a groundbreaking ceremony for Broadway West Community, a new 26-unit affordable housing complex at 3120 Broadway.

The city's **Economic Vitality Program** received an award for excellence for its Flexible Rebate Incentive Program from the International Economic Development Council. This program requires that applicants meet city sustainability goals and has received several applications from Boulder businesses. The city manager approved rebates on city taxes and fees to Siemens Power Generation, which chose Boulder for its first U.S. wind power research and development facility. Also, **Naturally Boulder Days**, the fourth annual conference for the natural and organic products industry, was held in Boulder in October. The city and the Boulder Chamber launched two new "**industry clusters**" - Active Living and Clean Tech - to support Boulder businesses that foster active living for health, recreation, or transportation, and clean technology and energy efficiency.

And, we hired a new **city attorney**, Jerry P. Gordon, and the city welcomed a new **city manager**, Jane S. Brautigam.



On behalf of the Boulder City Council, it has been our privilege to serve our community and to see projects and programs like these further enhance and inspire Boulder's unique quality of life. The council continues to work diligently toward supporting our economic, environmental and social sustainability goals while overseeing the responsible and mindful management of the city's budget.

We are serious about the challenges ahead and continue to look at improving efficiency within our government in conjunction with the Blue Ribbon Commission. As we look toward 2009, we are optimistic that together our residents, businesses, city staff and council members will continue to shape the values and the vision that we all have invested in to make Boulder a strong and prosperous community.

Best wishes,  
Mayor Shaun McGrath  
Deputy Mayor Crystal Gray  
Council Members Suzy Ageton, Matt Appelbaum, Macon Cowles, Angelique Espinoza, Lisa Morzel, Susan Osborne, and Ken Wilson

■ Leading by example:  
The city's green fleet

You can't just talk the talk; you have to walk it, too. In some cases, you may even need to drive! Currently, hybrid/alternative fuel vehicles (HAFV) make up 40 percent of the city of Boulder's fleet. Here's a snapshot of the city's alterative-fuel vehicles:

ALTERNATIVE FUEL	NUMBER OF VEHICLES
BioDiesel	92
Gas/Electric (Hybrids)	24
Gas/Ethanol	60
Gas/Propane	9
Gasoline Compressed Natural Gas	1
TOTAL	186



## ■ Boulder designated highest award as a bicycle-friendly community



Boulder has been awarded the highest honor a community can receive from the League of American Bicyclists — the prestigious platinum level designation for bicycle-friendly community. The league awards a four-year designation to cities that have made impressive, measurable efforts to integrate bicycling into the community. There are four levels—platinum, gold, silver and bronze. Boulder, previously a gold-winning community, was promoted to platinum and joined Portland, Ore., and Davis, Calif. as the only cities in the U.S. to have earned this top designation. “Boulder well deserves the platinum designation because they are actually delivering the quality of life benefits to which so many other communities aspire,” said Andy Clarke, president of the League of American Bicyclists. “The number of single-occupant vehicles is falling; bike use, walking and transit are increasing. People can get almost everywhere in town

by bike—and it’s a normal thing to do.”

### Major accomplishments that helped Boulder achieve platinum status include:

- Adoption of the Parks and Recreation Department’s Valmont City Park concept plan, which includes the construction of a bike park.
- Advancement of the Open Space and Mountain Parks Visitor Master Plan, which will consider additional trails for mountain biking access.
- A Transportation Master Plan that embraces a “complete street” approach when considering major transportation facility enhancements.
- An award-winning bicycle network, including more than 300 city miles of bikeways and 74 underpasses.
- A long-standing and successful Bike to Work Day that encourages individuals and employers to take the bike Commuter Challenge.
- A collaborative Safe Routes to School program encouraging and enabling more students to walk and bike to school safely.
- The many community partners that make Boulder a place where residents and visitors alike can get around by bike easily.

“The League of American Bicyclists is the leader for bicyclist education and advocacy in the country,” said Boul-

der Mayor Shaun McGrath. “To be recognized by such a progressive organization with its highest honor, only highlights the strides Boulder has made in creating exceptional bicycle programs, facilities and community values. To all the people who ride bikes in Boulder, including kids riding to school, world-class racers training for their next event, commuters riding to work, the mountain bikers riding Marshall Mesa and the families biking to the Farmer’s Market, I say, thank you for riding and for your long-term support for making Boulder a good place to ride a bike.” more information, contact Martha Roskowski, GO Boulder, at 303-441-4155.

### Did You Know?

During the Democratic National Convention, U.S. representatives got a first-hand bicycling experience of Boulder’s award-winning facilities. “These multi-modal projects are what we had in mind when we wrote the federal legislation,” said Congressman James Oberstar, referring to the 28th Street project that used federal and local funds to create new bike lanes, transit improvements, better sidewalks and operational improvements for cars using the busy corridor.

## ■ Winter updates from the Boulder Public Library

### Next One Book, One Boulder County book title to be announced Jan. 5.

Visit the project Web site at [www.onebookoneboulder.info](http://www.onebookoneboulder.info) on that date to see the book title and a list of program events for mid-March to early May.

One Book, One Boulder County is a reading and discussion program that encourages residents to read the same book at the same time to create a countywide book club. Community members are invited to join neighbors and friends for book discussions and special events in libraries, bookstores, on the CU campus and in Boulder Valley School District schools.

### New technology embraced at Boulder Public Library

Have you heard of Web 2.0? This Internet term refers to the transformation of passive consumers into active contributors of online information and content. If you’ve shared photos online, created a MySpace or other social networking page, or posted a comment to a blog, you’ve “gone Web 2.0.”

Web 2.0 has also come to the library. Boulder Public Library (BPL), like other public libraries across the country, has discovered that these technologies are great for

reaching out to patrons and creating more lively interactive spaces online. A recent study by Colorado-based Library Research Service of “Library 2.0” technologies that have been adopted by U.S. libraries shows that BPL stacks up well. Of 12 Web 2.0 technologies studied, BPL already offers 10, including a director’s blog, online sign-up for library cards and photos on flickr. Two of the offerings, Facebook and MySpace pages, are provided courtesy of BPL’s creative and active teen group.

Look for more in the future. Since January, 50 BPL employees in all departments and branches have been participating in an optional online training program called BPL 2.0. The self-paced program, which you can visit at <http://bpl2.pbwiki.com>, brings employees up to speed on current 2.0 technologies in the hopes that knowing their power will encourage new uses by the library.

Have a great idea for how 2.0 can help the library serve you better? Don’t hesitate to contact us at [ask@boulder.lib.co.us](mailto:ask@boulder.lib.co.us).

### Library Facilities Sustainability Study update

Boulder Public Library began a Facilities Sustainability Study in August with the goal of optimizing library

facilities and services in the community. The study began with an extensive community outreach and feedback period through several focus groups and a survey about library facilities, services and use of space. More than 150 people attended focus groups and more than 800 surveys were submitted with feedback. A preliminary report was presented to library staff and the Library Commission on Nov. 15. The report includes a potential list of strategic improvements for revitalizing existing facilities in the library system, as well as possibly establishing new facilities, including the concept of a limited services location for things like pick-up and drop-off of library materials. On Jan. 9, a final and more detailed report of potential improvements will be submitted to the library by the consultant conducting the study. The Library Commission and staff will then evaluate and prioritize the list.

### Sesquicentennial Celebration

• The Boulder Public Library is hosting a number of events throughout 2009 in honor of the sesquicentennial anniversary. Visit BPL’s Web site at [www.boulderlibrary.org](http://www.boulderlibrary.org) for more information.

## ■ City of Boulder's Prevention and Intervention Program targets youth risk behaviors

The 2007 update of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), a national survey created by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and administered by Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) every two years, was recently released and provides detailed insight into Boulder County's youth.

YRBS data shows that students value their parents' opinions. For example, when students feel their parents think it is wrong, they are half as likely to ever have consumed alcohol, 15 times more likely to think smoking is wrong and 12 times more likely to think marijuana is harmful. The city of Boulder's Prevention and Intervention Program (PI) provides access to information for parents regarding risk behaviors either through individual sessions or educational forums.

In partnership with the Boulder Valley School District and the Mental Health Center Serving Broomfield and Boulder Counties, the city has been participating in the effort to address youth risk behaviors in the city's middle and high schools since 1988. The goal of the PI program is to promote the health and resiliency of adolescents and their families by providing school-based prevention and intervention services.

Interventionists are mental health professionals, many of whom are licensed to practice psychotherapy independently in the state of Colorado. They provide a variety of services including mental health and substance abuse intake and assessment; brief, solution-focused counseling; school/community trauma response; referral and follow-up to community-based agencies and providers; consultation and action planning with school staff; peer counseling and mediation programs; psycho-educational support groups; youth leadership development services; parent education; classroom presentations; and in-service training for faculty and staff. All services are voluntary and provided free of charge to students and families.

If you have questions or concerns about issues impacting your student's health and well being, your school's intervention specialist can help you sort through them and direct you to additional services if needed. For more information about the Prevention and Intervention Program or to locate your school's interventionist, contact Kathryn Coleman at 303-441-3344. To read the most recent YRBS results, visit [www.co.boulder.co.us/health/HP/data/youth/yrbs.htm](http://www.co.boulder.co.us/health/HP/data/youth/yrbs.htm).

### ■ Boulder Senior Services Information

[www.BoulderSeniorServices.com](http://www.BoulderSeniorServices.com),

East Senior Center: 303-441-4150

West Senior Center: 303-441-3148

Ask for a free subscription to the Boulder Senior Services quarterly magazine to find out about upcoming events and community resources.

## ■ City ordinance recovers wages for unpaid workers

Since its adoption by City Council one year ago, the city's Failure to Pay Wages Ordinance has handled 11 cases and recovered more than \$8,600 in pay for work performed within Boulder.

As in other communities, some employers in Boulder fail to pay wages owed to their workers. No statistics on the scale of the problem are available, but the number of allegations reported to the Office of Human Rights (OHR) has increased significantly in recent years. Wage theft is destructive because it victimizes not only economically vulnerable members of the workforce, but also the network of service providers and governmental institutions striving to address the needs of Boulder's population.

The procedure for filing a wage complaint is similar to those used for the past 36 years to process discrimination complaints. After a preliminary investigation into duty to pay, OHR directs the worker and the employer to alternatives that can include settlement, mediation, or criminal prosecution.

Wages covered in this ordinance can include labor or a service that is performed under contract, subcontract, partnership or other agreement for the performance of labor or service. Jobs that are most likely to encounter such wage disputes include construction, landscaping, day labor, personal services and child care.

If you have worked for a Boulder employer who has not paid you for your work, please contact the Office of Human Rights at 303-441-3141 to discuss your options.

### Volunteers needed for the Professional Standards Citizen Review Panel

**Are you interested in making a difference in your community?**

**Want to promote top-notch law enforcement service?**

**The Boulder Police Department is looking for three volunteers to serve on the panel that reviews investigations into allegations of serious misconduct by department members. The review panel makes recommendations to the Chief of Police.**

#### Qualifications:

- You must be at least 21 years old
- You must have lived within the limits of the city of Boulder for at least three years
- You must have no felony convictions
- You must have no misdemeanor convictions in the last five years

**Volunteers are required to attend training from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7th. All applications are due on Jan. 15th.**

**Contact Sgt. Kerry Yamaguchi at 303-441-3312 or [yamaguchik@boulderpolice.com](mailto:yamaguchik@boulderpolice.com) for more information or an application.**



## ■ Compatible development project making progress

City efforts to examine the impacts that surround development in single-family neighborhoods (formerly known as "Pops and Scrapes") are well underway.

The first step of the project, "define the question," is complete. This involved hosting various workshops and conducting a survey of residents in single-family neighborhoods to develop a better understanding of the issue through the eyes of the Boulder community.

The next step, "develop a strategy," will use the information collected in the survey and workshops to craft a mutually beneficial strategy to address community concerns. The strategy will be refined through neighborhood meetings, expected to occur in mid-January, to gather public feedback. After the community workshops, the project team will go before Planning Board and City Council for final strategy direction.



For more information about the project or to view workshop summaries and survey results, visit [www.boulderplandevlop.net](http://www.boulderplandevlop.net) and click on "Hot Topics and Current Projects" or contact Senior Planner Julie Johnston at 303-441-1886.



## ■ Single-stream recycling, curbside composting now provided in Boulder

It is becoming much easier for residential trash customers to recycle and compost from home. Under a new program, all residential trash haulers will provide single-stream recycling and compost collection along with standard trash collection.

Single-stream recycling allows customers to mix all recyclables in one cart, making recycling much more convenient. Since customers no longer need two carts for recycling, the third cart is used for compostable materials. Single-stream recycling will be collected every other week, alternating with compost collection.

This new service has already started in some neighborhoods and will continue to be implemented through February 2009. This program is part of a larger effort to help the city become a zero-waste community.

Compost materials acceptable for collection include:

- yard waste (e.g., leaves, garden trimmings, branches, grass, and weeds);
- plant-based food waste (e.g., vegetable and fruit waste, cereals, grains, and coffee grounds);
- compostable paper products (e.g., napkins, paper towels, tissues, non-coated paper plates, coffee filters, and tea bags); and
- compostable products made from plant starches (e.g.,

take-out containers, cups, and utensils made from corn starch).

For the base trash rate, haulers will collect a 32-gallon cart of compostable materials, plus up to three extra bundles of branches (no larger than 3' x 6' and tied with twine) and up to three extra paper or compostable bags of leaves on compost collection day. A higher level of compost collection service is available for an additional cost through trash hauling companies.

Because the new curbside compost program enables customers to discard yard waste every other week throughout the year, the city's annual Spring Clean-up and Fall Leaf Drop-off programs will be discontinued after 2008. Free year-round yard waste drop-off will continue for Boulder residents at the city-funded Yard Waste Drop-off site, located at Western Disposal, 5880 Butte Mill Road.

Contact your trash hauler for specific service details. For general information about city waste reduction programs visit [www.environmentalaffairs.com](http://www.environmentalaffairs.com) or call 303-441-4204.



## ■ City's Economic Vitality Program wins award for excellence

The city of Boulder's Economic Vitality Program was presented with an award for its Flexible Rebate Incentive Program by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) at its annual conference in Atlanta, Ga. this fall. City Business Liaison Liz Hanson attended the conference and accepted the award on behalf of the city.

"The city's flexible rebate program garnered this prestigious award for our unique approach to business incentives, requiring applicants to verify compliance with our community and environmental sustainability guidelines," said Hanson. "Companies must choose from guidelines addressing items such as health insurance, nonprofit support, recycling, transit passes and commute trip reduction."

Competing in the category of sustainable and green development by organizations serving areas with populations between 50,000 and 200,000, Boulder's Economic Vitality Program was one of 494 entries in 25 award categories.

Before the adoption of Boulder's business incentives by City Council in 2006, Boulder had experienced a decline in overall economic activity and city revenues. In addition, the community experienced an increased outflow of local businesses moving to other cities. As a result, the city adopted a business incentive program that helps retain and expand homegrown primary employers and encourages their investment in Boulder.

For more information or instructions for how to apply for a business incentive, contact Liz Hanson at 303-441-3287 or go to [www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov) and click on "Business."

## ■ Winter home fire safety

Would your family wake up if there were a fire in your home? Would your smoke alarm provide the warning you need to escape? Boulder Fire Rescue reminds everyone that winter time poses the greatest risk of fires in the home.

We recommend you use this handy checklist to identify hazards and remedies:

- Test your smoke alarms and install new batteries this year. A 9-volt battery can make the difference between escape, or falling into a deeper sleep and dying in a fire.
- Children practice fire drills every month at school, so why not practice at home? Most fires happen at home and at night when everyone is asleep. Know what to do before a fire emergency. Test the smoke alarms and know what they sound like, make an escape plan with two ways out of the house and choose one meeting place to gather after everyone escapes.
- Extinguish candles before leaving the room or falling asleep. Keep candles away from anything that burns, including curtains, tablecloths or holiday decorations. Even small, "safe" candles have caused devastating fires. Candle bases need to be large enough to contain all the melted wax and keep the flame from spreading.

- Keep children and pets away from candles.
- Keep fire extinguishers handy near high risk areas—kitchens, fireplaces and garages.
- Fireplace ashes need to be discarded in metal containers and doused with water to cool completely.
- Extension cords can overheat if covered by a rug or furniture. Use heavy duty cords and power strips with surge protectors.
- Use cool burning lights and battery-operated candles for holiday lighting. Always unplug the lights before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning can be deadly. These toxic fumes are odorless and invisible. Install a carbon monoxide detector near your furnace, attached garages and any fuel-consuming appliance such as a wood stove or space heater.

Home fires can and do happen in Boulder. We want you to stay safe and protect yourself from fire - always! For more information, go to [www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov), click on "City A-Z" then "Fire and Rescue Department."



## ■ REMINDER: Remove snow by noon!

- Clear sidewalks by noon on the day following a snowstorm
- ICEBUSTERS needs volunteers and can help senior citizens and those with physical disabilities: 303-441-3157
- More info on sidewalk snow removal requirements, street and path maintenance or ICEBUSTERS: [www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov), click on "Winter Tips"

# inside parks and recreation, open space

## ■ Tips for staying fit in the winter months

Staying fit when the weather turns cold takes extra inspiration, even in fitness-conscious Boulder. Shorter days, holiday parties, indoor projects, Internet surfing and inclement weather all seem to conspire against even the most dedicated fitness fanatic. So how's a person to stave off the extra pounds and maintain that youthful vigor?

### PERFECT TIME – LOW COST

Winter is a perfect time to take advantage of the city's recreation centers to help you get and stay fit. Boulder offers an impressive array of adult and family fitness classes, pool lanes, state-of-the-art fitness equipment and indoor ball courts. Residents and visitors are often amazed at how clean, well-equipped and professionally-staffed our public recreation centers are, and even more surprised at how affordable they are. Daily drop in rates are just \$6 a day with multiple visit plans averaging as little as \$1.50 a day. The city also offers reduced-rate options for residents in need.

**TIP:** Even if you're a seasoned outdoor athlete, winter is a great time to move some of your workouts indoors to build core strength and muscle.

### CONVENIENT - NEARBY

Who wants to drive 20 minutes across town to do a 30-50 minute workout? Let's face it, distance is a serious deterrent to working out. The added time, expense of fuel and stress of traffic can derail any workout. Add a little snow on the road or frost on the windshield and it's easier to skip it. But with Parks and Recreation's three full-

service fitness and recreation centers located in north, east and south Boulder, there's probably one within minutes of where you live or work, increasing your ease of getting in a quality workout.

### JUST THREE WEEKS

Establishing a fitness pattern takes time and commitment, but not as much as you might think. Experts say it takes about three weeks of consistent effort to allow any new fitness program to become a successful part of your daily life. So do whatever it takes—bribe, cajole, pamper or trick yourself through those first few weeks—until your new fitness program becomes a healthy habit.

**TIP:** If you've been inactive for a while, remember to start out slowly and have fun!

For a full schedule of Parks and Recreation's events, programs and services, visit [www.BoulderParks-Rec.org](http://www.BoulderParks-Rec.org).

## ■ Winter city holiday closures

Noon on Christmas Eve – Wednesday, Dec. 24  
Christmas Day – Thursday, Dec. 25  
Noon on New Year's Eve – Wednesday, Dec. 31  
New Year's Day – Thursday, Jan. 1  
Martin Luther King Day – Monday, Jan. 19  
Presidents' Day – Monday, Feb. 16

Parking is free in city garages on weekends and city holidays. Parking at the meters is free on Sundays and city holidays, with no maximum time limit on Saturdays.

## ■ West Trail Study Area plan preserves resources

The Flatirons are a stunning landmark to Boulder residents and visitors alike, providing high-quality habitat for cliff-nesting raptors and other critical species, and world-class opportunities for climbing, hiking, and the study of unique geological formations. Much of the western urban boundary of the city of Boulder connects with Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) land, including the Chautauqua area and the Flatirons. The Flatirons aren't the only incredible feature of the western portion of OSMP – the entire area is filled with natural and cultural resources and recreational opportunities.

In 2008, OSMP began work on the West Trail Study Area (TSA) Project, which focuses on lands west of Broadway and State Highway 93 from Linden Avenue to Eldorado Springs Drive. The purpose of the West TSA Plan is to provide management direction and implementation strategies which will protect natural and cultural resources, improve the visitor experience, and provide a physically and environmentally sustainable trail system.

The large size of the West TSA (11,250 acres) requires an area-wide planning approach to address both habitat protection and trail connections in a large geographic context. The West TSA is not only one of the most biologically

diverse areas in OSMP, it also contains many historic and cultural resources and is a regional draw for recreation with over two million visits per year.

An area of high resource values and recreational use so close to the city creates many challenges to sustaining the health of ecosystems and providing high-quality visitor opportunities. To address these challenges, the TSA Plan will focus on directing visitor use through a system of sustainable trails that are compatible with long-term resource protection rather than restricting use. These challenges combined with the large size of the West TSA mean that the time frame for the West TSA Plan is anticipated to be approximately 24 months. But that doesn't mean you have to wait 24 months to find out more.

Community input and involvement are vital to making this plan a success. Starting at the end of 2008 and throughout 2009, OSMP will be holding a series of community meetings to define the desired conditions for natural, recreational and cultural resources in the West TSA and strategies to reach those conditions. This is your chance to have your voice heard on what you would like to see in the West TSA. For West TSA information and updates, go to [www.westtsa.org](http://www.westtsa.org).

Presented by:



FREE

You're invited:

## Athletes Holiday Gathering, Fun Run & Bike Ride

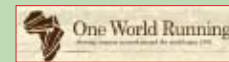
Sunday, Dec. 14  
2 – 5 p.m.

East Boulder Community Center  
5660 Sioux Drive, Boulder

- Meet many of Boulder's pro and Olympic athletes (see Web for list)
- Join Mayor Shaun McGrath in celebrating Boulder's top athletes, active community and recent achievements, such as Boulder's platinum level Bicycle Friendly Community award from the League of American Cyclists
- Support three local charities helping kids, families and athletes in need
- Participate in a 2-3 mile social run or ride with world-class pro cyclists, runners, and triathletes (optional)
- Enjoy yummy holiday treats and a great prize drawing

All ages and abilities welcome – Admission is FREE with your donation of a new toy, cans of food and/or used running shoes/athletic apparel.

Benefiting:



Sponsors:



For more info see:  
[www.BoulderParks-Rec.org](http://www.BoulderParks-Rec.org) or call 303-413-7239

## SPECIAL COUPON OFFER SAVE \$100 at city recreation centers

21 Days for \$21\* (new patrons only) Get the best deal on getting and staying fit in Boulder! 21 days of unlimited access to any city of Boulder Recreation Centers for just \$21!

That includes access to the pools, saunas, ball courts, cardio and weight room equipment PLUS all daily drop-in fitness classes offered at each center – for \$1 per day! That's more than \$100 in savings! Plus – once you decide to upgrade to a regular multi-entry card of 20 visits or more – we'll credit you your initial \$21 towards the cost of the upgrade. Come try us out. We're committed to keeping Boulder fit through these rough economic times.

\* This offer valid through January 31, 2009 at all three city of Boulder Recreation Centers. Pass good for 21 consecutive days from date of purchase. Offer cannot be combined with other offers or discounts and is available for new patrons only (those who have not held city of Boulder recreation center multi-use or annual pass cards within the past year). PROMO CODE: 512